

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

A REPORT FOR SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: MAY 17, 2013 – JULY 17, 2013

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,189 square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline. The sanctuary extends 25 to 50 miles seaward, covering much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons.

The sanctuary protects a productive upwelling zone - home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quileute, and Hoh Indian Tribes, and Quinault Nation.

OFFICE REPORT

OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Organized by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) management plan priority areas

TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

Quileute Tribe Hosts Intergovernmental Policy Council Meeting

June 13, 2013, an Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) meeting was hosted by the Quileute Tribe. Agenda topics included a discussion of the IPC's perspective on Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) 2013 Management Plan implementation priorities, budget outlook, and a report from the joint OCNMS Advisory Council /IPC Ocean Acidification working group. OCNMS Advisory Council has endorsed the recommendation of the joint working group and the IPC discussed a resolution which would do the same. The working group recommendations were forwarded to Washington State for their consideration as they determine how to proceed with the implementation of recent recommendations from the Washington State Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification.

ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Makah Tribe Meets with NOAA on Ocean Governance

Representatives from the Makah Tribal Council and Makah Ocean Policy Working Group met with John Stein, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Will Steele, NMFS Northwest Fisheries Service, and Carol Bernthal, Sanctuary Superintendent and other NOAA regional staff to discuss regional implementation of the National Ocean Policy and ongoing efforts at the state level to begin coastal marine spatial planning.

West Coast NOAA Collaboration for Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat

NOAA staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, Gulf of the Farallones NMS, Monterey Bay NMS, NOAA Deep Sea Coral Program, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region, NMFS Northwest Science Center and NMFS Southwest Science Center met on June 13 via webinar to identify areas of potential mutual interest along the west coast in relation to the five-year review process for Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and the resulting Request for Proposals issued by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Proposals are due July 31.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Conducts Overflight Training for ONP staff

Sanctuary staff, with assistance from the USCG Air Station / Sector Field Office, provided Olympic National Park Staff with hands on training in documenting overflight violations. ONP staff were trained in overflight violation observations, including observing flights from a USCG helicopter and various known elevations and distance off the coast.

Strategic Partnership Meeting with Seattle Aquarium and Sanctuary Staff

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary education team met with Seattle Aquarium's Director of Conservation and Education Jim Wharton, School and Family Programs Manager Catie Fyfe, and Marine Science and Education Coordinator Karen Matsumoto, to discuss partnership history, ongoing commitments, as well as new opportunities. The meeting culminated with a tour of Olympic Coast Discovery Center.

Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) Honored by White House

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) partner, Dr. Julia Parrish, Executive Director of the COASST program received the Champion of Change award for excellence in citizen science. The Champions of Change program, sponsored by the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, highlights transformative people and programs across the country. Dr. Julia Parrish is also the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Diversity for the College of the Environment at the University of Washington. OCNMS staff Heidi Pedersen coordinate's COASST efforts on the Olympic Peninsula.

Washington's Premier Shoreline Cleanup Group Holds Strategic Meeting

CoastSavers, the alliance that organizes shoreline debris cleanup on Washington's outer coast, held an all-day strategy meeting to discuss future opportunities, finance, and organizational structure. Representing Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary were Liam Antrim, a founding member of the alliance, and Jacqueline Laverdure, who for years has contributed significantly to event planning and outreach. To improve its organizational structure, CoastSavers established committees focused on strategic focus areas. Liam Antrim was elected to serve on the executive and finance committees.

Student Poster Recognized for Excellence

A poster entitled "Japanese Tsunami and Other Debris on the Washington Coast" was awarded Outstanding Poster recognition during Scholars Week All-University Poster Competition at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. More than 150 posters were presented and 20 selected for this distinction. The poster was prepared by students Pamela Griswold and Kassandra Grimm of Huxley College of the Environment and presented results of marine debris data analysis from two data sources - data collected by citizen scientists supervised by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and data from volunteers conducting beach cleanups. The project was funded by the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee.

Small Recreational Vessel Salvaged from the Olympic Coast

On June 2, 2013 a nineteen foot recreational fishing vessel capsized about two nautical miles off Makah Bay inside Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The crew was rescued and it was believed that the vessel had sunk. On June 6, 2013 Olympic National Park Rangers notified the sanctuary that the vessel had washed ashore along the wilderness coastline. Olympic National Park worked with the responsible party to have a salvor refloat the vessel and tow it out of both the park and the sanctuary.

CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Tested in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Washington Islands National Refuge

A two week period testing and evaluating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) and Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuge was successfully concluded on June 29. The primary mission was to determine if a UAS could monitor seabird nesting colonies on Washington Islands National Wildlife Refuges that are normally surveyed annually with a helicopter. Secondary missions surveyed for Japanese tsunami marine debris, both offshore and along some beach segments. Opportunistic surveys for other marine wildlife, such as sea otters, were also conducted. Two UAS were used in the project, with the amphibious PUMA UAS launched and recovered from OCNMS' R/V *Tatoosh* as well as being flown from shore. The second UAS was a Quadcopter that was launched and recovered from shore. Both recorded high definition video as well as digital still photos, which will be post-processed to assess behaviors and resolution of images for identifications of seabirds and marine debris. Preliminary results show that UAS surveys were successful and the much quieter flights around seabirds did not cause disturbance. The testing was also a successful collaboration across multiple agencies, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA UAS Program, NOAA Marine Debris Program, Office of National Marine Sanctuary UAS Program, OCNMS, Quinalt Indian Nation, Quileute Tribe, Olympic National Park and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project generated considerable media attention from local and regional newspapers, radio and television stations.



NOAA West Coast Acidification Research Cruise

In support of NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program and a NOAA Global Carbon Cycle Program-funded project, NOAA will conduct a cruise along the Pacific coast on *R/V Fairweather* to survey ocean acidification (OA) conditions on the continental shelf. The major objectives of the cruise are: to characterize (OA) conditions on the U.S. west coast; to conduct inter-calibration measurements near other OA observing assets in the study area; to provide calibration data needed to develop predictive models for aragonite saturation state, pH, and other important OA indicators in the California Current System; to provide quantitative assessment of phytoplankton, zooplankton, and harmful algal bloom activity in conjunction with OA measurements; and to provide scientific information on OA conditions and trends for resource management and decision support. The cruise will depart from Seattle at the end of June, with anticipated sampling of nine CTD stations in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary waters between Aug. 3 and 5. For more details visit www.pmel.noaa.gov/co2/dg/Fairweather_2013/index.html.



IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Olympic Coast Welcomes Three Hollings Scholar Interns

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) welcomes three new Hollings Scholars, Katherine (Katie) O'Reilly, Vanessa Constant and Kevin Pelstring. The NOAA Hollings Scholarship is designed to support undergraduate studies in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education, to increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy. Katie O'Reilly will be a senior at University of Miami, with a double major in Marine Science and Biology. At OCNMS she is coordinating the Junior Oceanographer summer camp program in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center. Vanessa Constant is entering her senior year at Cornell University majoring in Natural Resources with a minor Marine Biology. She is conducting a change over time analysis of oceanographic data for temperature in the sanctuary and participates in the deployment and servicing of oceanographic moorings and producing foundational graphical representations of historic temperature data collected throughout the sanctuary. Kevin Pelstring will be a senior at the University of California, Davis with a double major in Economics and Environmental Science and Management. He is using a program developed by the National Park Service to calculate the carbon and particulate emissions of all OCNMS operations and develop a mitigation and carbon reduction plan. Under the Office of Education, the Hollings Scholarship recruits and prepares students for public service careers with NOAA.

Five Hundred Olympic Coast Students Participate in Ocean Science Activities



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with Seattle Aquarium and Feiro Marine Life Center, completed the seventh year of *Ocean Science* programming for Washington's outer coast communities. Approximately 500 third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students participated in classroom activities, field trips to Feiro Marine Life Center and Seattle Aquarium, and beach field investigations. Data collected by students during beach trips are submitted to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife *NatureMapping* citizen science program. Sixteen teachers and nearly 100 parents also participated in 2012-2013 *Ocean Science* trainings and activities. Schools include Ocosta, Simpson, Ocean Shores, Pacific Beach, Taholah, Lake Quinault, Queets-Clearwater, Forks, Neah Bay and Clallam Bay. *Ocean Science* is designed to integrate

NOAA ocean literacy concepts and principles into western Washington formal and informal educational programs. *Ocean Science* is a collaborative effort between Seattle Aquarium, Feiro Marine Life Center and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, supported by North Pacific Coast and Grays Harbor marine resource committees, as well as NOAA B-WET.

Olympic Coast Discovery Center Docents Complete Training

Nine new docents completed their series training sessions in order to begin staffing Olympic Coast Discovery Center (OCDC) for the 2013 season. The training sessions consisted of various presentations, many given by Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff, representing each of OCDC's exhibits and current sanctuary and marine issues. The 2013 OCDC volunteer training also included a field trip to Neah Bay to incorporate tribal culture from the Makah Museum and an interpretive guided walk to Cape Flattery to witness the northernmost boundary of OCNMS. A second tidepooling field trip to Salt Creek's Tongue Point gave them hands-on experience and understanding about intertidal species and habitats. Olympic Coast Discovery Center opened for the 2013 season on Sat., May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) and will remain open daily from 10:00am-5:00pm through Mon., Sept. 2nd (Labor Day weekend). OCDC is the sanctuary's

visitor's center and face to the public, providing interpretive information and experiences to educate visitors and locals about the cultural and natural resources within OCNMS. After Labor Day weekend OCDC will remain open on weekends through the Dungeness Crab and Seafood Fest in mid-October or by appointment only.

National Marine Sanctuaries Highlighted in POET May 2013 Newsletter

National Park Service's Pacific Ocean Education Team (POET) highlighted three National Marine Sanctuaries' partnerships and programs in their May 2013 newsletter. The three programs include *Ocean Science*, an award winning partnership and Ocean Literacy program of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Seattle Aquarium; *LiMPETS* (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students), an environmental monitoring and education program for students in California; and *Ocean For Life Field Studies*, an international marine science and cultural exchange program. To read the newsletter in its entirety, go to www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/upload/POET-Newsletter-May-2013.pdf.

Olympic Coast Teachers Complete Ocean Science Workshop

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), in partnership with Seattle Aquarium and Feiro Marine Life Center, conducted *Ocean Science: The Ocean Starts in your Backyard* teacher professional development workshop. Twelve teachers from Washington's outer coast communities participated in this hands-on, inquiry based workshop focused on field investigations at the schoolyard and at the beach. Throughout the two-day workshop, NOAA scientists provided presentations and led discussions on the research being conducted in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Presenters included NOAA Corps Lieutenant Tannin Simms who provided an overview of PUMA, Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), marine mammal and marine debris monitoring operations, and OCNMS Resource Protection Specialist Liam Antrim who discussed the sanctuary's role in resource protection and assisted teachers with field investigations at the beach.



Sanctuary Participates in 5th Annual Ocean and River Resources Fair

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary staff provided hands-on activities and information at the 5th Annual Ocean and River Resources Fair. The event highlighted citizen science, volunteer and educational activities on the North Olympic Peninsula, including student videos from Lake Ozette Sockeye Salmon Education Program. Approximately fifty community members attended the fair and barbeque sponsored by North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee.

North Olympic Watershed Science Reaches 480 Students



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center and Olympic National Park, conducted North Olympic Watershed (NOW) Science spring programming for fifth grade classes in the Sequim, Port Angeles, and Joyce school districts. In its fifth year, NOW Science served 480 students and 38 adult chaperones and teachers from nineteen different classes. NOW Science is a B-WET (NOAA) funded education program that promotes experiential learning and connects students to conservation issues in their local watersheds.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Trained Olympic National Park Rangers

On June 14-15 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) hosted training for Olympic National Park coastal interpretive rangers and Kalaloch Lodge interpretive staff. The training, provided annually, introduces new interpretation staff to Washington's marine ecosystems and coastal resources as well as OCNMS regulations. Highlights included an USCG Air Station overflight demonstration and a tour of the sanctuary on board the RV Tatoosh where rangers saw sea lions, sea lion pups, harbor seals and a variety of pelagic birds.

OCNMS Leads Junior Oceanographer and ROV Summer Camp

OCNMS Hollings Scholar Katie O'Reilly developed and led Junior Oceanographer summer camp programs each week starting June 24th, in partnership with Feiro Marine Life Center in Port Angeles, WA. The camp sessions taught students between the ages of five and thirteen about the ocean and marine life through interactive and hands-on activities. Two of the week-long camp sessions focused on designing and building Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROV) in teams. Each team launched their ROV in the Port Angeles City Pool and competed against their peers in an obstacle course to showcase their ROV skills.



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary supports NatureBridge Teacher Workshop

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), in partnership with NatureBridge and Feiro Marine Life Center, supported *Marine Science*, a professional development workshop for teachers. Twenty-nine teachers from Washington participated in this inquiry-based workshop focused on field investigations, and connecting the classroom to the marine environment. Throughout the two-day workshop, staff helped teachers better understand the ocean, and how to connect it and their students. Teachers were given rich content on intertidal habitats and creatures, as well as techniques and activities to do with students of various ages. Activities included a transect collecting data on intertidal invertebrates, understanding marine adaptations through art, tide demonstrations, and plankton sampling. Teachers were given a variety of NOAA resources, including *Ocean Literacy Principles* and information on Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team Offers Training in Forks

Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) will be hosting a free training session on Sat., Aug. 10th in Forks at Washington Department of Natural Resources from 10:00am to 4:00pm (or 1-4pm for refreshers). COASST is a citizen science project dedicated to involving volunteers in the collection of high quality data on the status of coastal beaches and trends of seabirds. Their goal is to assist government agencies and other organizations in making informed management and conservation decisions, and to promote proactive citizen involvement and action. COASST volunteers systematically count and identify bird carcasses that wash ashore along ocean beaches from northern California to Alaska. Volunteers do not need experience with birds, just a commitment to survey a specific beach each month. For more information, contact coasst@uw.edu or 206-221-6893.

CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

Evaluating Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area in OCNMS

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) staff continued analyzing data and assessing options for Olympic 2, a conservation area within OCNMS designated in 2007 through Groundfish Management Plan enacted under the Magnuson Stevens Act by the National Marine Fisheries Service with advice by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). OCNMS has been consulting with the Makah Tribe on the analysis and options for modifying Olympic 2. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has indicated an interest in jointly submitting a proposal with OCNMS to PFMC as part of the five year review of Essential Fish Habitat for groundfish on the west coast. Proposals to modify, amend, or delete EFH and associated conservation measures are due July 31.

Ecosystem Indicators Workshop for Washington State

Staff from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary participated in a workshop to develop Ecosystem Indicators for Washington's Pacific Coast. The May 13 workshop brought together scientists and resource managers to learn about the relationship of indicators to marine spatial planning on Washington's Pacific Coast; learn about the status of work on Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for the California Current; provide input on a draft conceptual model of the Washington Coast; discuss potential candidate ecological indicators and criteria for evaluating indicators; develop a process for establishing ecosystem indicators; and identify priority activities for advancing ecosystem indicator work.

Vessel Traffic Pilot Project supports Washington State Marine Spatial Planning Efforts

In 2012 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) conducted a pilot project with exactEarth, a private company that collects ship data using Automatic Identification System (AIS) ship monitoring data collected by satellite (S-AIS). OCNMS has been monitoring commercial vessels since the 1995 using Canadian Coast Guard radar data and more recently AIS. The primary purpose of the project was to evaluate S-AIS data to see if OCNMS could use it to meet their vessel monitoring needs. A secondary objective was to evaluate the data to see if it could be used to support Washington State's Marine Spatial Planning activities. OCNMS has provided Washington State Department of Ecology with summary data for over 20,000 vessel transits, broken out into 19 vessel types that occurred off the Washington Coast in 2012. It is possible that OCNMS may provide additional products following Ecology's review of the utility of the data for their MSP efforts.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) conducted congressional briefings for district staff for Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray and Representative Derek Kilmer. OCNMS representatives presented information on OCNMS programs, issues, challenges and opportunities associated with key initiatives underway at OCNMS.

UNDERSTANDING THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

National Park Service Records Intertidal Shipwreck Site in OCNMS

Sanctuary staff were notified by Olympic National Park archaeologists of an intertidal shipwreck site, located near Hole-In-The-Wall. Park cultural resources staff mapped the extent of the site and documented numerous iron fittings wedged in boulders and cobble on the beach. Historically-recorded wrecks in the vicinity include the Leonore and the WJ Pirrie. Leonore, a three-masted bark grounded in a storm in 1893 with a loss of five. WJ Pirrie, a five-masted schooner barge was lost in 1920 when her tow broke and the ship drifted into reefs just north of the Quillayute River. Eighteen of her crew perished, with two surviving. Sanctuary and headquarters staff have surveyed offshore areas in the vicinity in search of the WJ Pirrie, without success. Anecdotal reports of iron fittings have surfaced over the years from beachcombers, but, to date, no efforts have been made to locate the ship remains. Ironically, both ships bore Chilean registry and casualties from both shipwrecks are believed to be mingled in a mass grave, marked with a stone at a location slightly north and identified as "Chilean Memorial."

SANCTUARY PERMITTING

Issued Permits and Approvals

OCNMS-2013-002 – Ms. Catherine McLean – Consortium for Ocean Leadership; co-applicant Dr. Robert Collier, Oregon State University

Project Title: Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Permitted Activity: Install and service a surface buoy and co-located vertical profiling mooring containing scientific instrumentation within the sanctuary. The mooring site will be continually occupied by this OOI infrastructure for 25-30 years. Data from the buoy/mooring will be made available in near real-time to OCNMS and other interested parties through an OOI web site.

Project Location: Nominally 47.133° N, 124.286° W, located 500 meters inside the southern OCNMS boundary

Permit Duration: June 14, 2013 to June 13, 2018

OCNMS-2013-003 – Dr. Daniel Roby, Oregon State University; co-applicant Peter Loschl, OSU

Project Title: Develop Baseline Information on Double-crested Cormorants Relative to Their Impacts on Survival of Salmonid Smolts in the Columbia River Estuary

Permitted Activity: Low altitude flights at no lower than 700 feet above ground/water level altitude in fixed wing aircraft in the overflight restricted zone within OCNMS to census double-crested cormorants and other nesting seabirds

Project Location: Between the Copalis River and Point of the Arches

Permit Duration: May 23, 2013 through July 31, 2013

OCNMS-2013-004 – Mr. John Nessel, The Undersea Company, Port Townsend, WA

Project Title: Removal and Disposal of Tsunami Dock Near Mosquito Creek

Permitted Activity: To facilitate the expeditious removal of the large dock originating from Misawa, Japan, the following activities were allowed by this permit: 1) excavation and redistribution of intertidal sediments in the area immediately adjacent to the dock location, and 2) overflights below 2000' AGL within the OCNMS overflight restriction zone

Project Location: The Misawa dock is located on the shore approximately 2 miles north of Hoh Head and 1.5 miles south of Mosquito Creek outlet. Coordinates are 47°48 N and 124°28 W. A staging area for helicopter operations was located inland on private forest lands approximately 1.3 miles inland and southeast of the dock location. Aerial operations were permitted within 0.25 mile of this location, including offshore areas.

Permit Duration: March 12, 2013 through April 12, 2013

LEARN ABOUT YOUR SANCTUARY / NATURAL HISTORY

New information about resources in the sanctuary is always emerging. This section of the office report is reserved for sharing brief descriptions of recent studies, observations, findings, reports, forecasts related to the sanctuary.

Climate Researchers Discover New Rhythm for El Niño

The impacts of El Niño are well known and documented across the globe, shifting weather patterns that spawn droughts in some regions and floods in others. El Niño peaks around Christmas and ends quickly by February to April, but only recently have scientists understood why it followed this cycle. New research from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa shows that an

unusual wind pattern straddles the equatorial Pacific during strong El Niño events and swings back and forth with a period of 15 months. With the help of numerical atmospheric models, the scientists discovered that an unusual wind pattern originates from an interaction between El Niño and the seasonal evolution of temperatures in the western tropical Pacific warm pool. A study of the evolution of the anomalous wind pattern in the model reveals a rhythm of about 15 months accompanying strong El Niño events, which is considerably faster than the three- to five-year timetable for El Niño events, but slower than the annual cycle. The scientists are convinced that a better representation of the 15-month tropical Pacific wind pattern in climate models will improve El Niño forecasts and change the characteristics of future El Niño rainfall patterns. This finding is reported in the May 26, 2013, online issue of *Nature Geoscience*.

See www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v6/n7/full/ngeo1826.html

Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts and Outlook

Taken from The Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC)

May 2013 started out warm and dry, but ended cool and wet with a stormy close to the month, which helped make up for the precipitation deficits from the prolonged dryness at the beginning of the year. Possible impacts to the Pacific Northwest region this season include the following:

- Concern for drought and fire activity in eastern OR and southern ID.
- Western WA and Northern ID Panhandle were wetter than normal; the Columbia River Gorge and Yakima Valley experienced their third wettest May on record.
- WA cherry growers expect smaller yields due to cool and windy weather during pollination; OR strawberries arrived early this year thanks to warm and dry weather.
- Snowpack melted out quickly in southern OR and southern ID, but a robust snowpack persisted in the WA Cascades and northern ID, reducing fire danger and drought concerns. Snowpack levels increased through May in the northern Columbia River Basin.
- Snowpack melted quickly in southern OR and southern ID, but a robust snowpack persisted in the WA Cascades and Northern ID.
- NOAA's Climate Prediction Center outlook shows higher probability of below average precipitation across the entire region, except for southeastern ID.
- Greater odds of above average temperatures are expected in eastern OR, southeastern WA and all of ID except for the tip of the Panhandle.
- Fire season was projected to start early in the season, due to abnormally dry start to the year. Several small wildfires burned across WA and OR during the warm weather in mid-May. The showers at the end of May helped reduce the concern about an early fire season.
- The National Interagency Fire Council projects that much of the region will have above average fire activity this summer.

Dead Fin Whale Washes Up On Ocean Shores Beach

On June 13, 2013 a dead fin whale was reported as having washed up on the coast about four miles north of Ocean Shores. It is believed that the whale had been dead for approximately one week and that it had evidence of blunt force trauma, possibly from a ship strike.

REGIONAL / NATIONAL ONMS NEWS

Public Input Sought for Sanctuary Nomination and Evaluation Process

In recognition of widespread community-based interest, and the Administration's advancement of the national ocean policy and the recommendation the Implementation Plan proposes, NOAA has determined that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries should reestablish a public process to nominate new sites for potential designation as future national marine sanctuaries. Once reactivated, the Sanctuary Nomination and Evaluation Process will provide communities the means to recommend new sanctuaries for consideration in the system. Current expansions are being implemented with existing resources. For future designations, no additional resources would be needed for three to five years. At the end of that time, NOAA would evaluate and consider all available sources of support to provide a sufficient level of management for any new site(s).

National Condition Report Release by Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) National Condition Report released a report outlining the status and trends of resource condition across the 14 units of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Condition reports for each unit of the National Marine Sanctuary System were prepared over the last six years and discuss site-based resource status and trends, human pressures and ways of addressing them, and accomplishments and gaps in conservation science. They are influential in supporting management, but also keep the public informed and engaged in conservation efforts. Together with site-based reports, the National Condition Report will help direct the course of development and support for conservation science across the national system. Though the report is not intended to act as an implementation plan, it does provide a synthesis of nationally-significant information that can help inform sanctuary-level conservation science programming, investment and decision making. The report also discusses the need for more monitoring and research, the critical role of dedicated citizens who volunteer their time and talents, and the role of partnerships and coordination with communities and local, state, federal, and territorial governments in protecting special marine places. The report can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/pdfs/ncr2013.pdf>.

Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Successfully Complete Section 106 Review for Proposed Boundary Expansion

West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator, Robert Schwemmer, successfully completed a Section 106 Review process under the National Historic Preservation Act on behalf of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS) proposed expansion of their northern boundaries to include the waters from Bodega Head in Sonoma County to north of Point Arena (39 degrees North latitude) in Mendocino County, and west beyond the edge of the continental shelf. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process the sanctuaries are required to submit the Section 106 Review identifying historic and pre-historic archaeological properties and to take into account the effects of the undertaking of boundary expansion on these properties. Protection and monitoring of historical and cultural resources will become a more pronounced responsibility in the sanctuaries' heritage resources management program if boundary expansion occurs.

NEWS COVERAGE

COASST Volunteers Track Birds

The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) program is a citizen science program based at the University of Washington in partnership with state, federal and tribal agencies, community organizations and volunteer groups, including OCNMS. COASST monitors dead seabirds on 580 beaches in four states with about 750 volunteers.

http://www.forksforum.com/news/article.exm/2013-06-18_coast_volunteers_track_birds

NOAA Seeks Public Input on Nomination Process for Potential New Marine Sanctuaries

NOAA is seeking public input on a proposed process and associated criteria to evaluate potential new national marine sanctuaries in the nation's marine and Great Lakes environments.

http://www.noaaneews.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130628_nominationprocess.html

NOAA Drone Flying Experimentally Off Olympic Coast

Civilian use of aerial drones is still greatly restricted, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration won permission to test a small unmanned aircraft off the Olympic Coast of Washington for a two-week trial period. The NOAA drone resembles a remote-control model airplane with a 9-foot wingspan and can fly for two hours on battery power.

<http://www.nwnewsnetwork.org/post/noaa-drone-flying-experimentally-olympic-coast>

Unmanned Aircraft Soars Over Peninsula Coast for Researchers

Scientists hope to learn how the burgeoning field of unmanned aerial vehicles can help survey the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary by monitoring marine animal populations and patrolling the coasts for marine debris.

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20130623/NEWS/306239998/unmanned-aircraft-soars-over-peninsula-coast-for-researchers>

NOAA Testing Drones Off Washington Coast

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tested two different unmanned aircraft systems (drones) off the northern Washington coast for two weeks. The machines were built to military specifications but are used by NOAA to survey birds and marine life because they are much less costly and less likely to cause disturbance to the animals.

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/noaa-testing-drones-washington-coast/nYY3z/>

Humpbacks Are Back and Thriving

The banning of commercial whaling in 1966, the establishment of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the designation of protected waters in Olympic National Marine Sanctuary in 1994 have helped cetacean populations rebound in Washington waters. Today the humpback whales population in the North Pacific is at an estimated 20,000 whales, representing a significant come back.

<http://blogs.seattletimes.com/fieldnotes/2013/06/24/humpbacks-are-back-and-thriving/?syndication=rss>

World's Fish Have Been Moving to Cooler Waters for Decades

Fish and other sea life have been moving toward Earth's poles in search of cooler waters, part of a worldwide, decades-long migration documented for the first time by a recent study by University of British Columbia researchers. The research provides more evidence of a rapidly warming planet and has broad repercussions for fish harvests around the globe.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/worlds-fish-have-been-moving-to-cooler-waters-for-decades-study-finds/2013/05/15/730292e8-bcd7-11e2-9b09-1638acc3942e_story.html

The Jewels of the Ocean: Two New Species and a New Genus of Octocorals from the Pacific

A new study and a taxonomic assessment of the octocorals from the north eastern Pacific Ocean reveals two new beautiful and colorful species of soft corals alongside a new genus.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/06/130603135513.htm>

Top Destinations for Science Geeks

This list of fourteen noteworthy destinations targeted to science lovers includes Monterey Bay and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries.

<http://www.foxnews.com/travel/2013/06/18/top-destinations-for-science-geeks/>

WEB SITE (<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>)

Follow the OCNMS on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/usolympiccoastgov>

Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

*Comments and suggestions can be sent to
Jacqueline.Laverdure@noaa.gov.*

FUN, OCEAN-RELATED WEB SITES

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Washington's Ocean Resources

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/ocean/index.html>

NOAA Marine Debris Program

<http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

CoastWatch – West Coast Regional Node

<http://coastwatch.pfel.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

<http://www.nanoos.org/>

Encyclopedia of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>

NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/>

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_welcome.html

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/welcome.html>

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